

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A system for management and manipulation of stored files through electronic mail items comprising:

a receiving portal for receiving, from a sender, an electronic mail item including a first field which contains a user identification, a second field which contains a file handle and a third field which contains a command specification;

a storage device for containing a file corresponding to said file handle;

a rights verifier for determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access the stored file corresponding to said file handle; and

a command executor which executes said command specification on the file retrieved from said storage device when the sender is verified to have the access rights to the file.

2. (original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 further including a file handle recognizer for locating conforming file handle patterns within the body of the electronic mail item.

3. (original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 further including a user identification system which extracts information from the electronic mail item including the from address, destination address, the subject, the reply-to, and the body of the electronic mail item, to enable verification of the sender as a known user of the system.

4. (original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 3 further including a command parser which recognizes and assembles a command out of the information extracted from the electronic mail item.

5. (original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to delete the file from said storage device.

6. (original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to retrieve the file as an email attachment.

7. (original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to forward the file to a third party as an email attachment.

8. (original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to forward to a third party a newly constructed file handle to the file stored on said storage device.

9. (original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to print the file on a fax machine at a specified telephone number.

10. (original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 further including at least one of an optical character recognition device, automatic speech recognition device, language translation device, and a file format translation device associated with said command executor.

11. (original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to convert the file to plain text and email it back to the sender.

12. (original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to convert the file to an audio file and to forward the audio file to a telephone at a specified number.

13. (original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs the command executor to automatically print the file and mail it to a third party.

14. (original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the storage device further includes an automatic deletion timer associated with at least one of the stored files.

15. (original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs the command executor to change the date of autodeletion of the file.

16. (original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein said file handle is a uniform resource locator.

17. (original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the storage device is chosen from the group consisting of hard drives, optical drives, random access memories, tape drives, RAID arrays, and storage area networks.

18. (currently amended) A method for the electronic mail based management and manipulation of stored files comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a sender, an electronic mail item which contains a first field which contains ~~an~~ a user identification, a second field which contains a file handle and a third field which contains a command specification;

determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access the stored file corresponding to the file handle;

retrieving the file from a storage device corresponding to the file handle; and

executing the command specification on the file retrieved from the storage device when the sender is determined to have access rights to the file.

19. (currently amended) A computer readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving, from a sender, an electronic mail item which contains a first field which contains ~~an~~ a user identification, a second field which contains a file handle and a third field which contains a command specification;

determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access a file stored on a storage device corresponding to the file handle;

retrieving the stored file from the storage device; and

executing the command specification on the retrieved file when the sender is determined to have the access rights to said file.

20. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which computer readable medium is a hard drive.

21. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer readable medium is an optical drive.

22. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer readable medium is a Random Access Memory.

23. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer readable medium is a Read Only Memory.

24. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer readable medium is a tape drive.

25. (currently amended) A processor and memory configured to perform the steps of:

receiving, from a sender, an electronic mail item which contains a first field which contains ~~an~~ a user identification, a second field which contains a file handle and a third field which contains a command specification;

determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access a file stored on a storage device corresponding to the file handle;

retrieving the stored file from the storage device; and

executing the command specification on the retrieved file when the sender is determined to have the access rights to the file.

26. (original) The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and memory are incorporated into a personal computer.

27. (original) The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and memory are incorporated into a programmable logic controller.

28. (original) The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and memory are incorporated into a single board computer.

29. (original) The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and memory are incorporated into an array of network servers.